



COLORADO SPRINGS,  
COLORADO

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**JUNE 1995**



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 16521  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



# Ø BEAT



## P.P.R.A.A Officers and Directors

President--	Steve Westby	WB7VHR	1540 Keith Drive	80916	570-1070
Vice-President--	John Martin	NØURR	8233 Colony Circle	80919	531-6369
Secretary--	Warren Hickey	WØYNE	12395 Tia Lane	80908	495-0471
Treasurer--	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	4306 Ridgeland Drive	80918	693-8362
Board Member--	Ora Marie Rose	NØQJX	6214 Colter Lane	80915	591-5758
Board Member--	Jeff Ryan	NØWPA	6721 Northface Lane	80919	260-6828
Board Member--	Harry Russell	NØSFP	11710 Tracy Lane, Peyton	80831	749-0244
Board Member--	Jill Kamlenek	AAØTH	P.O. Box 5590, Woodland Pk	80866	687-5864
Past President--	Steve Westby	WB7VHR	1540 Keith Drive	80916	570-1070
Ø-Beat Editor--	Kathie Martin	NØYTQ	3148 Maverick Drive	80918	594-9339
Ø-Beat Editor--	Mike Martin	NØOCZ	3148 Maverick Drive	80918	594-9339

**ZERO BEAT** is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see last page of this publication. The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26, 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. at 7PM.

**EDITORS:** Kathie Martin, NØYTQ and Mike Martin, NØOCZ, 3148 Maverick Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918 (719)594-9339. Deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of each month. Submissions may be sent to the Editor or to the club PO box. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

**ADVERTISING RATES:** Full page \$48; half page \$24; quarter page \$12; business card \$6. These are monthly rates and are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

## Committee Chairpersons, etc.

Publicity	Al Craig	594-9288
Membership	Las Borst	634-3995
Education	Al Bailey	597-8514
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	596-5345
Interference	Bill Patty	591-2116
RACES	Doug Moloney	unlisted
ARES	Mike Stansberry	636-1290
Skywarn	Steve Westby	570-1070
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	636-1290
CCARC	Cory Nelson	
Club Trailer	Harry Russell	749-0244
Ø-Beat	Kathie Martin & Mike Martin	594-9339
Club Historian	Al Craig	594-9288
Falcon Wanderers	Bob Nyman	574-5161
Programs	John Martin	531-6369
Swapfest	Harvey Hunter	597-8964
Finance	John Martin	531-8369

## Reminder - June Meeting

The next meeting of the PPRAA will be held on Wednesday, June 14th at the Disabled American Veterans Hall located at 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Program will be presented by Mark Goldberg, "Life at a Commercial Broadcast Radio Station."

## Radio Exams

Radio Examinations are sponsored by the PPRAA on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Testing takes place at 9:00 AM at:

Denver Technical College(DTC)  
225 South Union  
Colorado Springs

Everyone is treated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an examination should bring the following item.

1. \$5.90 (preferably a check or money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.
3. A copy of your current amateur license as well as the signed original. A copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the original. **We keep the copies.**
4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any further questions please call Erik Mugele, N5XYX at 596-5345. Please do not call DTC, they only provide us the rooms for testing, and they do not have any further information concerning the testing.

**PPRAA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MAY 10, 1995**

The general membership meeting was opened at 1900 by the president Steve Westby upon determining a quorum of the membership was present. Members and guests introduced themselves. The treasurer report was given by Ron Deutsch, NKØP. The minutes of the Apr 17, 1995 meeting as published in Zero-Beat were approved as amended that NKØP will not be operating the satellite station during field day. The station will be operated by Tom McDaniels, NØNTX.

**Committee Reports:**

**V.E Testing:** Rick Brown, KDØSU, stated that the next VE Test Session on May 20th will be held at Liberty High during the Swapfest. Rick has a need for VEs for this session. Rick would like to have a break as the point of contact for VE testing.

**A.R.E.S. Liaison:** Jeff, NØWPA report on up and coming A.R.E.S. activities and nets.

**Public Service:** WL7RV reported on the need for help on the Pike Peak Hill climb.

**Interference:** Bill Petty, NØNJX reported on the status of the person interfering on the local repeaters. **CCARC:** Cory Nelson, KBØNMH, reported on the next meeting.

**ZERO-BEAT:** Kathie, NØYTQ, reminded everyone that the cut-off date for the next ZERO-BEAT was 20 May.

**Programs:** John, NØURR, announced that next months program will be Mark Goldberg from KKLI.

**Swapfest:** Harv, WA3EIB, our Swapfest Chairman and Rosie, WAØMNL, provided an update to the status of the 20 May Swapfest. Harv stated that table sales were doing well and we should have another successful Swapfest. There will be barbecue and all kinds of other good food. Harv will have a Swapfest staff meeting on Friday night at 8pm at his house.

**Skywarn:** Steve, WB7VHR, briefed on last weekends Skywarn training. It was very successful.

**Old Business:**

Warren briefed the group on starting an Explorer Post. He asked all members who are interested to meet during the break.

**New Business:**

Art spoke to the membership about Christmas Unlimited. He has some left over parts that are available to members. They were exhibited at the front of the room.

**Hammy Award** was presented by Ora on behalf of Oak, KØROL, to Les Borst. Congratulations. **Next Board meeting** will be held at the home Kathie and Mike's on Monday May 15 at 1900. If you plan to attend please let them know. **Program:** QRP operations presented by Rick High

*Respectively submitted by Warren, WØYNE, Secretary*

**PPRAA BOARD MEETING  
May 15, 1995**

The Board Meeting was opened at 1900 by the president, Steve Westby, at the home of Kathie. NØYTQ; Members present were Steve, WB7VHR; Jeff, NØWPA; Jill, AAØTH; Mike, NØOCZ vice Ron, NKØP; Mike, KBØIAP vice Warren, WØYNE; John, NØURR.

**Committee Reports:**

**ZERO-BEAT:** Kathie, NØYTQ, reminded everyone that inputs to the ZERO-BEAT are due 20 June.

**Programs:** Next months program will be by Mark Goldberg on "Life in a Broadcast station." July program, Harv will present a talk on the Grand Caymen or 4 Elmers be positioned at corners of meeting room and conduct training of their choice. John, NØURR will be leaving the area, therefore a replacement will be elected. **Skywarn/ARES Dist 14:** Crystals are being installed and pagers tested. **Next Board Meeting** will be held Monday June 19th at 1900. The place still needs to be determined. **Meeting adjourned at 1930.**

*Respectively submitted by Mike, KBØIAP Acting Secretary*

**REMINDER!** This is the members' newsletter. Should you see or hear, or read something you think would interest others, send it in!!

## Ø-Beat Traffic Net

The first major routine public service communications event, the annual Walk for Children, went quite well despite adverse weather conditions. I want to thank the following Amateur Radio Operators for supplying communications help for the walk:

Steve, KØCI; Robert, K4UBU; Jody, KAØRO; Russ, KBØFNM; Jack, KBØLWE; Cory, KBØNMH; Scott, KBØPOA; Charles, KBØPOB; Johnnie, KBØPTQ; Dianne, KB5LOL; Les, KCØNC; Aaron, KD6FLM; Dave, KD6JDA; Authur, KFØVG; Bart, KGØOQ; Steve, KGØRN; David, NØEOP; Mark, NØGYI; Ted, NØNKG; Mallory, NØIKF; Jeff, NØJLH; John, NØKIC; Rick, NØNJY; Thomas, NØNTX; Harry, NØSFP; Ginger, NØUOD; Richard, NØUVT; Charlotte, NØVAN; Jeff, NØWPA; David, NØZLZ; Douglas, NØZPY; Cliff, NØZUQ; Al, NØZVQ; John, N6VTS; Larry, N9HSW; Derek, WAØZTI; Steve, WB7VHR; Robert, WB7WHT; Robert, WL7RV and Erik, N5XYX.

A special thanks to: Derek, WAØZTI, for supplying his portable repeater system; the PPFMA for the use of the 145.265 repeater; the PPRAA for the use of their club trailer; and Harry, NØSFP, for transporting the trailer.

Mike, KØTER, ARES Public Service Communications AEC

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On May 7th, communication help was provided for the "MS Fun Walk." I would like to thank the following Amateur Radio Operators: Ginger, NØUOD; Skee, NØPRY; Doug, NØZPY and Dave, NØEOP

Luci, NØOUD, Event Coordinator

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On behalf of PPRAA, I want to extend a big thank you to our super Swapfest Chairman and to everyone who helped with the raffle. We had a successful raffle and could not have done it without your help...to the many who bought tickets...helped get prizes and helped at the Swapfest...as well as all the people who worked so hard at making the Swapfest a busy and fun event and a benefit to our club. There were 2,647 tickets in the barrel. Winners of the main prizes were:

Grand Prize--JC2340H Dual Band FM Transceiver to Jo Hatten, KB5EIL, Grand Junction, IN

Laser Printer to Charlotte Kaltenstein, XYL of NØIEM, Frank.

Multimeter CD Rom Packager to Liz Blanco, Aurora, CO  
Multimeter to Russ Calaway, KBØFNM, Colorado Springs, CO

When I called Jo to tell her she'd won the dual bander her words were "Fantastic! Please thank the club for me, and Rosie thanks for coming to our Swapfest and selling me the winning ticket--my husband is N5LKO and we've had to share one radio, so we really can use this."

CD ROM winner Liz says she's never won anything worth anything before in her life. She thanked the club for such a nice prize. They don't have anything like this but have wanted one.

I enclose Charlotte's note--she's the person that has donated us an afghan quilt the last two years. This will be on display at the next meeting so you all can buy some raffle tickets on that.

Russ says "Rosie sold me a lot of tickets. I hadn't won a prize all day. I was beginning to wonder if I had any tickets in the barrel. Thanks for the multimeter."

Rosie, WAØMNL

Just a note of appreciation for the laser printer I happened to win at the Hamfest. While I don't have a computer, it's still nice to be a winner--even if Frank did buy the ticket!

Charlotte Kaltenstein, NØIEM-XYL

**A BIG THANK YOU  
TO ALL WHO  
MADE  
THIS YEAR'S  
SWAPFEST  
A HUGE SUCCESS!**

## Ni-Cads a fire hazard

by Skip Douglas, KA9DDN

Beware, anyone who uses Alinco HT's, especially the DJ-180 and DJ-580, and all users of rechargeable-battery equipment.

The charging terminals on the Alinco HT batteries are *not* diode-protected against external short circuits. The manual points this out but fails to emphasize the possible consequences.

Aaron Douglas, N9UBF (my son), had his Alinco on his bed along with items from his school bag including a spiral-bound notebook. Somehow the charging terminals of the battery contacted the metal binding of the notebook, and, *within seconds* either the battery case or the spiral wire heated enough to set the blanket afire.

Fortunately Aaron was there. He noticed the smoke and fire in time to extinguish it, preventing more serious consequences. Had it happened when no one was home, we would no longer have a house.

The same could happen to you, if you carry a battery in your pocket, along with change, keys, nail file, etc.

As a result of our experience, I strongly recommend the use of a soft case for the Alinco HTs. And never place the uncased radio, or its spare batteries, on any surface other than something like a table that is clear of conductive items.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, "How can a small, low-voltage battery pack be so dangerous?" Well, the nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries in most portable equipment have extremely low internal resistance. So they can deliver a very large current into a short circuit.

Most Ni-Cad battery packs don't have exposed charging terminals connected directly to the batteries. The Yaesu FT-23/73 family of HTs, for example, uses an internal diode to block current flow out of the charging terminals. To test whether a battery-pack's charging terminals for safety, measure the voltage across its charging terminals with a multimeter. If you read a voltage, your battery pack is unsafe.

The terminals on almost all Ni-Cad battery packs are exposed when the batteries are detached from the radio or other device they are intended to power. Thus the precautions I've outlined apply to most Ni-Cad batteries when they are separated from their loads.

*from the Jan. '94 Chicago F31 Club "Squelch Tale" -- Tim Garrity, WD9DZV, Editor and the ARNS Bulletin, Apr. '95 issue*

## Official Bulletin Stations WIAW Bulletins Available On Internet

WIAW bulletins are distributed on the Internet. They are mailed out from WIAW to the Internet site netcom.com, where they are remailed to people on the Internet (and CompuServe, American OnLine, MCI, etc.). Netcom maintains an email listserver with a number of Amateur Radio mailing lists, including the WIAW bulletin distribution list. To receive WIAW bulletins by email, send a message to [LISTSERV@NETCOM.COM](mailto:LISTSERV@NETCOM.COM) with any subject (it is ignored) and the following text as the body of your message:

```
subscribe wlaw-list
help
lists
quit
```

The "lists" command in the above message will give you a listing of all of the available email distribution services that are available at Netcom. The "help" command will give you a set of instructions for all of the available commands that [LISTSERV](mailto:LISTSERV@NETCOM.COM) understands.--Michael Tracy, KC1SX, ARRL Technical Information Services  
*from FIELD FORUM, Jan. '93 Edition*



# PPRAA

## June 1995



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# PPRAA

July 1995



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## Dits and Bits

From Oak, KØROL . . . The following is another big list of stuff I have

### For Sale: (General Video)

- ACA WV-515A Master Chro-Bar Generator w/manual. \$25.
- Color camera, Newvicon, 10-pin cable, Panasonic PK-973, C-mount 12:1 zoom with macro lens. \$60.
- Color camera, Vidicon, 10-pin cable, Curtis-Mathes F-738, 6:1 zoom lens, mounted with 45-deg half-silvered mirror, Panasonic 8" commercial grade b&w TR-930 monitor mounted behind mirror. (see ATVQ Jan-Feb-Mar 1994, page 21 for details) Sell entire assembly for \$150.
- Cassette Recorder, RCA VKP-900, VHS Portable, w/mainframe for 120vac or 12vdc. Video dub, Audio dub, 10-pin camera jack for all above cameras. Portable carry-case. 12vdc power cable. Cost \$900 will sell for \$100 w/manuals.
- Camera power supply, Quasar Model KT576SE, 12vdc, audio/video baseband outputs, for all above cameras, 10-pin camera jack. \$45.
- Camera power supply, Home-built, for 12 vdc source, Audio/video baseband outputs, for all above camers, 10-pin camera jack. \$20.
- Color Monitor, Apple composite, Model II-E, 13" screen diagonal. \$75.
- Color Monitor, Commodore Model 1902, 13" screen diagonal. \$75.
- Color Monitor/All-channel Television w/remote control, audio & video inputs & outputs, TMK Model 1433RC, 13" screen diagonal. \$150.
- Color Monitor/VHF/UHF Channel Television, Panasonic Model CT-500V for both 120vac and 12vdc, Audio & video inputs & outputs. 5" screen diagonal. Cost \$500 will sell for \$100.
- Color Television, all channels (including cable TV,) Zenith Model J0930Y for both 120vac and 12vdc power. 9" screen diagonal. Cost \$210 will sell for \$100.

### 450 MHz RF Stuff

- AEA VSB-70 Vestigial Sideband Transceiver Crystalled for 421.25 MHz (cable channel 57) and 426.25 MHz. 1.5 Watts video w/subcarrier audio. Tunable GaSPet down-converter to TV channels 3 or 4. \$150.
- Mirage D-24 (ATV) 430-450 MHz, 1.5 watts in, ~40 watts out continuous duty with 6" cooling fan (also for SSB) \$200.
- AEA RLA-70 430 MHz Remote Linear Amplifier with MPS-100 Multi-Purpose Power Supply. This amplifier is designed for mast mounting, has 50-watts minimum linear class AB output. Includes a built-in VHF

preamplifier with 10 dB typical gain and a 1.5 dB typical noise figure, using Motorola MRF966 GaAsFET. The Power Module, MPS-100 uses 120vac input and delivers 28-30 vdc at 6 amp on Type N connector for mast mounted amp, plus 13.8 vdc @ 2 amp for the driving ATV transceiver, such as the VSB-70 above. This unit sold for about \$700. It is unused. Paid \$500 will sell for \$250.

### 450 MHz ATV Antennas

- 88-element Jay Beam ATV antenna, mounted on rigid steel tubing, suitable for either vertical or horizontal polarization on rotator. Approx 19 ft long, 18 dBd gain, 5-deg beam width. Used, good condition. \$50.
- W60AL (Olde Antenna Labs) 10-element skeleton slot array. Vertical or horizontal polarization, PVC mounting frame, hardline harness. \$40.
- Cushcraft 11-element ATV Yagi array, gamma match, vert or horiz mounting on any mast. \$15.

### 900 MHz Stuff

- W60AL (Olde Antenna Labs) 7-element Yagi w/trigonal reflector, Hardline matching harness and balun, "N" connector, vert or horiz rear mounting, PVC mounting. \$40.
- Home-brew 13-element Yagi on fibreglas boom, horiz or vert mounting. \$10.
- Home-brew 2-element Yagi driver and 32" parabolic reflector. \$15.
- Comet, FP-19 vertically polarized 17-element collinear commercial antenna in fibreglas radome, 902-918 MHz. Cost \$109 will sell for \$75.
- Vidicraft 'Vidi-View' 10 mW home transmitter and receiver pair, with baseband inputs and outputs. All SMT components. 2 sets. One set converted for use on 911.25 MHz, BNC connectors and tunable frequency receiver. \$40.
- Gemini "Rabbit" 10 mW home transmitter and receiver pair, unmodified. Only channel 3 or 4 television output (Rx) Baseband inputs (Tx). \$35.







## PIKES PEAK AUTO HILL CLIMB

On July 4th this year, as in past years, you'll hear the roar of high-powered engines and see plenty of excitement as drivers from around the world attempt to climb Pikes Peak at record-breaking speeds. And, as in past years, there'll be hams stationed all the way up the course keeping their eyes open for problems on the course.

If you're interested in participating in this all-day affair, contact me now. I'm accepting sign-ups for volunteers and hoping to get about 50 or so hams participating. The only requirements are that you come prepared to be up there all day (bring food, water, clothing, batteries, etc.) and that you're willing to do all that's necessary to make this a success (e.g., be flexible enough to move around if asked).

To sign up or ask questions, call me (Rob Roller) at 719-282-0204 or leave me a message (1) on packet at WB7WHT@NOWPA, (2) via Internet at rollerr@usa.net, or (3) on the Ham II BBS at 719-282-0108.

I need to know your name and call sign, any phone numbers you can be reached at (home, work, FAX, etc.), if you have 4-wheel drive capability, your T-shirt size, if you have 2-meter/440 capabilities or both, if you have crossband capability, and whether or not you are able and willing to work on practice days.

Every registered worker will be allowed to bring one "assistant" without charge. There's no word yet on any required safety briefing, but there may be one like the one required last year by the PPAHC committee. There will be more details available on the Tuesday night ARES nets at 1900 on the 146.97 PPFMA repeater between now and July 4th.

## Amateur Radio Helps In Rescue

During the afternoon of June 20, 1994, the NOAA Weather Service in Asheville, North Carolina, issued a severe storm alert for the Cherokee area. Members of the Jackson County Amateur Radio Club were ready. Trip Carswell, KD4FNQ, was operating the Chair Lift upper passenger loading ramp control on a local mountaintop. Suddenly, lightning started striking the small area, and more than twenty-five flashes were counted before it stopped. Power failed. The chair lift was disabled, as was the communications systems.

The heavy downpour caused the steep clay access road to be so slick, not even an emergency 4-wheel drive vehicle could come up and check on the passengers stalled at the top of the lift.

Trip contact Emmitt Carter, KR4LZ, in Glenville, who relayed safety information between the top of the chair lift and the Cherokee Police. The Police were informed that no one was hurt by the lightning. Information was handled via the 145.49 repeater.

What seemed like hours later, after power was restored, all came down safely, but nervous from their ordeal. (Tnx Frank Young, NT4K, Emergency Coordinator, Jackson County)  
from FIELD FORUM, Jan., '95 Edition

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Lauren Libby KXØO - 593-9861  
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## OM/YL LUNCH BUNCH

The May lunch had a special guest, Kim, KL1OWC, who was visiting family in the Colorado Springs area. The June get together will be on June 22nd at the Home Town Buffet. We meet at noon. You do not need to have a Ham license. Hope to see you!

73's  
Rosie Calaway, WAØMNL  
471-9965



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**Please note:** Please submit a completed application form along with your check to the treasurer. This applies to new membership as well as renewals. Thank you